

1257, and the way my garbage bill, LB 1008, deals with the whole question of garbage. There is no specific language in either bill that says how a municipal city or a town or a village is going to structure their fees. And, indeed, if Senator Hall's house is valued at \$50,000 and his neighbor's house is valued at \$50,000, and Senator Hall is generating five bags of garbage and his neighbor isn't generating one full bag, yet they're both paying the same property tax, that is patently unfair. The property tax is applied to the person's house to pay for the garbage fee currently in Omaha and there is no equity in that. Under Morrissey's bill, under Senator Morrissey's bill, 1257, under LB 1008, the City of Omaha could implement a structure fee that would be generated based upon number of bags used, could be generated based upon yard waste, could be generated based upon recyclables picked up, could be generated based upon whichever way the City Council and the Mayor determine...the elected public officials in that community determine they ought to be implemented. And that's the way it ought to be. It ought to be a local control issue. It ought to be an issue where the people who are locally involved elect local officials to determine what type of collection fee, if any collection fee at all. There's no mandate in any of this that has collection fee be implemented. So the argument that the property tax is the best way to do it is just not, on the face of it is just not logical and does not make good sense. But the real issue here as in Senator Chambers' amendment doesn't make good public policy to say that simply the City of Omaha will not have the authority granted to every other community in the State of Nebraska. And I...and I would urge each of you to look at that and to recognize the fact that it is not good public policy, that it is poor public policy and, indeed, Senator Chambers talks about the people in his district and I believe him to be honest and forthright when he talks about his concern for the people in his district. But, indeed, if the City of Omaha is not allowed in tight economic times to look for alternative ways to generate new income, those most at risk in the community are always those most likely to suffer when budget cuts come. This is about a seven or eight million dollar General Fund budget item in the City of Omaha. If things are going to have to be cut in order to continue to fund the garbage collection fee on property taxes, those people most at risk, those most likely to live in Senator Chambers' district are the most likely to see their libraries closed, to see the hours cut, to see the public services cut, to see the street cleaning not done, that is the area of the city that is most likely to suffer and struggle